AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17. **(Canceled)**

18. **(Currently amended)** A fuel filter comprising

a filter housing,

at least one fuel inlet (2) **provided on the filter housing**,

at least one fuel outlet (3) **provided on the filter housing**,

a means **located in the filter housing** for separating water from the fuel,

at least one sump (4, 32, 44, 51) **located in the filter housing** for collecting the water separated from the fuel,

a water outlet (5, 41, 52) **provided on the filter housing** associated with the sump,

control means (6) for the water outlet (5, 41, 52), and

means~~, mounted onto the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet,~~ for separating contaminants from the water to be drained off from the sump**, said means for separating contaminants from the water to be drained off from the sump being located inside a container and the container is mounted on the filter housing**.

19. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein said means for separating water from the fuel includes a filter element which also cleans contaminants from the fuel and wherein the sump is associated with the clean side of the filter element.

20. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein said means for separating water from the fuel includes a filter element which also cleans contaminants from the fuel and wherein the sump is associated with the dirty side of the filter element.

21. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein the means~~, mounted onto the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet,~~ for separating contaminants from the water to be drained off from the sump comprises an activated charcoal filter (54).

22. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 19, wherein the means~~, mounted onto the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet,~~ for separating contaminants from the water to be drained off from the sump comprises an activated charcoal filter (54).

23. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 20, wherein the means~~, mounted onto the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet,~~ for separating contaminants from the water to be drained off from the sump comprises an activated charcoal filter (54).

24. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein the means~~,~~ ~~mounted onto the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet,~~ for separating contaminants from the water to be drained off from the sump comprises a water absorption and evaporation unit, open to the environment.

25. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 24, wherein the water absorption and evaporation unit has a container (11) open to the environment in an upper region.

26. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 24, wherein the water absorption and evaporation unit has an absorbent material (12).

27. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 25, wherein the water absorption and evaporation unit has an absorbent material (12).

28. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 26, wherein the material (12) at least partly comprises an absorbent paper.

29. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 26, wherein the material (12) is at least partly spongelike.

30. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 24, wherein the water absorption and evaporation unit has a large evaporation surface area.

31. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising chemicals for binding the contaminants, which are provided in the sump and/or in a chamber downstream of the water outlet.

32. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising a controllable valve (46, 53) located at the water outlet.

33. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising a valve (43, 46) located at the water outlet actuated by a floating body (42).

34. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising a pump at the water outlet.

35. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 34, wherein the pump is a volumetric pump.

36. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising at least one water level sensor (7, 8, 31, 33, 34), located in the region of the sump (4, 32, 44, 51), for controlling the water outlet.

37. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 36, further comprising two water level sensors (7, 8, 31, 33, 34).

38. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein the water outlet includes an outlet valve (53) and the means for separating contaminants from the water to be drained off from the sump is mounted downstream of the outlet valve (53).

39. **(New)** A fuel filter comprising:

at least one fuel inlet (2),

at least one fuel outlet (3),

a means for separating water from the fuel,

at least one sump (4, 32, 44, 51) for collecting the water separated from the fuel,

a water outlet (5, 41, 52) associated with the sump,

control means (6) for the water outlet (5, 41, 52), and

means for separating contaminants from the water to be drained off from the sump located directly at the water outlet.

40. **(New)** A fuel filter comprising:

at least one fuel inlet (2),

at least one fuel outlet (3),

a means for separating water from the fuel,

at least one sump (4, 32, 44, 51) for collecting the water separated from the fuel,

a water outlet (5, 41, 52) associated with the sump,

control means (6) for the water outlet (5, 41, 52), and

an absorbent material, placed at the water outlet, which absorbs water carried away from the sump of the fuel filter and holds the water until the water has evaporated.

41. **(New)** A fuel filter comprising:

at least one fuel inlet (2),

at least one fuel outlet (3),

a means for separating water from the fuel,

at least one sump (4, 32, 44, 51) for collecting the water separated from the fuel,

a water outlet (5, 41, 52) associated with the sump,

control means (6) for the water outlet (5, 41, 52), and

a filter body adjoining the control means for cleaning the water drained from the sump.